

Median Barriers... (median diverters, island diverters)

Median barriers are islands located along the centerline of a street and continuing through an intersection so as to block through movement at a cross street.

They are good for:

- Local street connections to main streets where through traffic along the continuing local street is a problem
- Main streets where left-turns to and/or from the side street are unsafe

Advantages:

- Median Barriers can improve safety at an intersection of a local street and a major street by prohibiting dangerous turning movements
- They can reduce traffic volumes on a cut-through route that crosses a major street

Disadvantages:

- They require available street width on the major street
- They limit turns to and from the side street for local residents and emergency services

Effectiveness:

- Average of 31% decrease in traffic volume, or a decrease of 1167 vehicles per day (from a sample of 10 sites; average includes various types of volume control measures)

Similar Measures:

- By placing a barrier across only one stem of the intersection, you have a [Full Closure](#)
- By placing a barrier only half-way across a street along only one stem of the intersection, you have a [Half Closure](#)
- By placing the barrier diagonally through an intersection, you have a [Diagonal Diverter](#)
- By shortening the barrier and placing it at a midblock location only, you have a [Center Island Median](#)
- By restricting turning movements using channelization out of the side street itself, you have a [Forced Turn Island](#)

Cost Estimate(s):

- \$15,000 - 20,000 per 100 feet



San Diego, CA - This median barrier uses a simple raised curb along the centerline of the major street. The pavement markings on the side street indicating that right-turns only are permitted are barely visible from this angle.



Phoenix, AZ - This median barrier allows both right - and left-turns out of the side street but prohibits through movements by explicitly channeling the left-turn movement.



Montgomery County, MD - This median barrier also allows left-turns out of the side street by using a very short barrier.

[Home](#)

[Definition](#)

[History](#)

[Types of Measures](#)

[Effectiveness](#)

[Programs](#)

[References](#)



Berkeley, CA - This median barrier uses temporary materials to test the effects of the restriction.

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